

# **INFORMATION FOR THE PRESS**

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**ALASKA FUR PRODUCTION UP  
IN 1938 BUT INCOME DROPS**

*Mr. Tolson*

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Income from Alaska's fur exports dropped approximately 16 percent for the year 1938 as compared with the value of shipments in 1937, according to a report of the Alaska Game Commission, recently made public by the Bureau of Biological Survey, U. S. Department of Agriculture. In 1938 a total of 423,115 pelts brought \$1,958,185.

At the same time the total number of pelts shipped in 1938 (last year) was over 17 percent greater, or approximately 62,000 more than in 1937. The report covers furs of all species sent out of the territory, from squirrels to polar bears and including silver and blue fox, minks, and beavers.

The slump in the market price of leading pelts exceeded 40 percent in one instance and was general in all varieties. Silver fox skins, with an average market price of \$40 in 1937, sold for an average of \$29.50 last year. Shipment of muskrat pelts increased from 231,000 to 291,000 in 1938, but the average market price was but 66 cents per pelt, as compared with \$1.15 in 1937.

Beaver pelts dropped in value from \$13 to \$11.25, but opening the season on beavers in 5 of the Territory's 8 fur districts for the 1938 season, resulting in the export of 31,000 pelts in 1938, an increase of 29,000 over the previous year. In 1937, when the season on beaver was closed throughout the Territory, the only export was 2000 pelts held over from previous years.

The only furs that brought higher prices in the 1938 market were black and polar bear, lynx, and marmot. The increases were slight and insufficient to offset price declines of other varieties.

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The Alaska Game Commission's report is summarized as follows:

<u>Species</u>	<u>Number of Pelts</u>	<u>Average value</u>	<u>Total Value</u>
Bear			
Black or Glacier.....	112	\$ 2.00	\$ 224.00
Polar.....	81	27.00	2,187.00
Beaver.....	30,889	11.25	347,501.25
Coyote.....	1,355	5.75	7,791.25
Fox			
Red.....	15,076	9.25	139,453.00
Cross.....	2,186	16.50	36,069.00
Silver.....	1,103	29.50	32,538.50
White (Pribilof Islands)....	16	13.50	216.00
White (elsewhere).....	3,519	17.00	59,823.00
Blue (Pribilof Islands).....	847	24.32	20,600.00
Blue (elsewhere).....	11,403	26.50	302,179.50
Hare.....	335	.05	16.75
Lynx.....	2,130	36.00	76,680.00
Marmot.....	81	.20	16.20
Marten.....	9,237	24.75	228,615.75
Mink.....	36,866	11.50	458,459.00
Muskrat.....	291,140	.66	192,152.40
Otter.....	2,892	12.75	36,873.00
Squirrel.....	204	.08	16.30
Weasel.....	9,755	.55	5,365.25
Wolf.....	640	15.50	9,920.00
Wolverine.....	248	6.00	1,488.00
Totals.....	423,115	---	\$1,958,185.15

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